

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-01 ICA-11 SS-15 NSC-05 H-01 /079 W
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R 291255Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2332
INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 5082

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SF
SUBJECT: NATIONALIST DEBATE ON INTEGRATED FACILITIES

REF: PRETORIA 4139

1. THE QUESTION OF PERMITTING LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO DESEGREGATE CERTAIN PUBLIC FACILITIES HAS BECOME A PRIMARY ISSUE WITHIN THE NATIONAL PARTY THIS YEAR. INTRA-PARTY CONTROVERSY FLARED UP OVER THE DECISION IN JUNE BY THE PRETORIA CITY COUNCIL NOT TO INTEGRATE THE BREYTENBACH THEATER (SEE REFTEL). FOREIGN MINISTER PIK BOTHA AND SOME NATIONALIST MPS PUBLICLY CRITICIZED THE DECISION BUT MINISTER OF PLURAL AFFAIRS CONNIE MULDER SUBSEQUENTLY DEFENDED THE RIGHT OF THE PRETORIA COUNCIL TO MAKE ITS OWN DECISION UNDER THE GOVERNMENT'S PRINCIPLE OF LOCAL OPTION ON SUCH MATTERS. EARLIER THIS MONTH, THE NATAL NATIONAL PARTY CONGRESS HEATEDLY DEBATED THE ISSUE (DURBAN 476) AND WHILE THE CAPE CONGRESS MANAGED TO AVOID THE SUBJECT, IT MAY ALSO BE A FOCUS OF ATTENTION AT THE TRANSVAAL CONGRESS IN SEPTEMBER.

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2. MOST RECENTLY THE VERKRAMPTE (CONSERVATIVE) DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING AND PLURAL RELATIONS, ANDREAS TREURNICHT, PUBLICLY CRITICIZED NATIONAL PARTY MEMBERS WHO FAVOR LIMITED DESEGREGATED FACILITIES. IN AN AUGUST 22 SPEECH, TREURNICHT REPORTEDLY CITED A GROUND SWELL OF SUPPORT FROM HIS "IMPATIENT" CONSTITUENCY AGAINST "THIS INSISTENCE ON OPENING FACILITIES." TREURNICHT THE NEXT DAY REPORTEDLY TOLD THE PRESS

HE SAW THE ISSUE OF OPEN FACILITIES AS A SERIOUS THREAT TO NATIONAL PARTY UNITY AND TO THE GOAL OF ESTABLISHING SEPARATE POLITICAL STRUCTURES.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH 27 LIVE THEATERS HAVE APPLIED AND RECEIVED PERMITS FOR MIXED AUDIENCES, THE POLICY CHANGE HAS NOT RESULTED IN ANY NOTICABLY WIDESPREAD BLACK ATTENDANCE AT THESE THEATERS; NO PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN REPORTED. NONETHELESS, IF PAST PERFORMANCE IS ANY GUIDE, THE BACKLASH IN THE PARTY OVER THE SMALL DEGREE OF DESEGREGATION THAT HAS OCCURRED IN PUBLIC FACILITIES WILL ASSURE ONLY PAINFULLY SLOW PROGRESS ON THIS FRONT.
EDMONDSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 29 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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